APPENDIX

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REPORTS ON THE 17TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
Paris, France, September 16-October 17, 1972

[The following report was prepared by Scott Adams, Senior Staff Scientist, Biological Sciences Communication Project, George Washington University.]

The 17th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, meeting in Paris on September 16-October 17, approved a draft resolution establishing the new UNISIST program with a total budget for biennium 1973-74 of $1,217,000. The General Conference also reviewed the programs plans of UNESCO's Department of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives with a budget for the 1973-74 biennium of $4,096,500. The U.S. delegation to the General Conference voted its approval of both programs.

For purposes of program and budget review, the General Conference of UNESCO divides into commissions, which generally reflect the vertical organization of UNESCO's programs: education, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and culture, communication, etc. Thus the program plans for the "World Science Information System (UNISIST)" were reviewed by Commission II (Natural Sciences) on October 24-25, while the program plans for the Department of Libraries, Documentation and Archives were reviewed by Commission IV (Communication) on October 31.

The new UNISIST program attracted much attention. Referred to by the Director General as a program "of utmost importance for the progress of science and the unity of modern civilization, one aspect of which is the promotion of the developing countries," this program was based on a three-year feasibility study jointly conducted by the International Council of Scientific Unions and UNESCO (1968-70), the results of which had been reviewed by an Intergovernmental Conference convened by UNESCO in October 1971. It was this Conference which had recommended to the Director General the establishment of a new program designed to increase the level of voluntary international cooperation involved in the exchange of scientific and technical information between countries, and among the fields of science and technology.

The staff of the Division of Scientific Documentation and Information in the Science Sector of UNESCO, headed by Dr. Adam Wysocki, formerly of the Polish Academy of Sciences, had developed a program with the five-fold objective of: (1) improving the tools of system interconnection, (2) improvement of information transfer, (3) development of specialized information manpower, (4) development of national scientific information policies and structures, and (5) assistance to UNESCO member states. Project proposals, described in the published Draft Programme and Budget,[1] include support for a World Inventory of Information Services, currently being developed cooperatively by the International Federation for Documentation and the National Federation of Science Abstracting and Indexing Services ($15,500), support for the development of bibliographic standards used by indexing and abstracting services ($28,500), assistance for the International Serials Data System (ISDS) based in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, and now coordinated with the National Serials Data Program (U.S.) ($70,000), support of a newly established International Center for Terminology in Austria ($10,000), and assistance to ICSU's Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) ($13,900).

Of particular interest are activities proposed to be conducted cooperatively with the Communications Sector in assisting the governments of UNESCO member states to establish national scientific and technical information policies and programs.

The total budget for UNISIST in 1973-74 comprises $817,000 of regular program funds, and $400,000 transferred from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support assistance to developing countries.

UNISIST will be guided by an 18-member Steering Committee, representative of the governments of both industrialized and developing countries, and by an Advisory Committee representative of scientist users, librarians and information specialists.

The UNISIST program received a strong endorsement from Commission II. Twenty-nine countries

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Draft Programme and Budget for 1973-1974. (General Conference; Seventeenth Session, Paris 1972, 17 C/5) Paris, UNESCO, 1972.

including the United States, made statements in support, and the vote on the resolution to approve was unanimous. The U.S. intervention was made by Professor Chauncy Harris of the University of Chicago, spokesman for the U.S. delegation on matters relating to science. Dr. Harris was accompanied by Scott Adams, advisor to the Delegation on UNISIST. Dr. Harris made the following points: (1) It was desirable to limit UNISIST to a modest number of program objectives, rather than to develop a large number of diverse projects, (2) UNISIST should be administratively located in UNESCO's Science Sector, and (3) in recognition of the need to coordinate UNESCO's programs relating to UNISIST, a UNISIST program coordinating committee should be established in the Science Sector.

The Arab Republic of Egypt had proposed an amendment to the draft resolution authorizing UNISIST which called for an increase in the number of experimental support programs in developing countries in order to include a country from the Arab bloc of nations. This draft resolution was further amended to include an African state. The Egyptian amendment was passed, 54 to 0, with 16 countries abstaining, including the United States.

With the understanding that the Draft Medium-Term Outline Plan for 1973-78 [2] did not call for the approval of the Commission, and that action to recommend it to the General Conference bound neither the member states nor the UNESCO Secretariat, the Medium-Term Outline Plan, as it related to UNISIST, was also unanimously recommended.

On Tuesday, October 31, Commission IV (Communication) undertook a review of UNESCO's draft program for the Department of Libraries, Documentation, and Archives. This Department, placed in UNESCO's Communication Sector, represents the principal concentration of support programs in the library and archives fields. It is headed by Oleg Mikhailov, formerly of the Information Directorate of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers, U.S.S.R.

The work plan for the Department of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives for the biennium 1973-74 calls for a variety of projects.

In the area of research, the Department proposes the establishment of an International System on Research in Documentation (ISORID) which would maintain a collection of research reports and provide consultative services; $10,500 is requested for ISORID, with an additional $20,000 to facilitate contributions from national centers. A state-of-the-art survey would be conducted on research in documentation, including the automation of information processing. Publication of the *UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries*, and for *Bibliography, Documentation, Terminology* would be continued, and editions of the *UNESCO Bulletin* would be published in Arabic and Russian; $140,000 is requested for this publication program.

Contributions for the biennium would be made to principal nongovernmental organizations as follows: International Council on Archives ($21,000), International Federation for Documentation ($14,000), International Federation of Library Associations ($65,000).

The International Advisory Committee on Documentation, Libraries, and Archives, on which Melvin S. Day, Deputy Director National Library of Medicine, represents the United States, would be convened once during this biennium.

In the area of planning, the Department is requesting $24,000 to promote the establishment of planning policies and methodologies for natural documentation, library, and archive components as integral parts of national communication infrastructure. It is requesting an additional $16,500 to plan an intergovernmental conference to be convened in 1974 to review the regional planning conferences in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Arab states, and to make recommendations for the preparation of national plans for the development of documentation, libraries, and archive services. The Department is also requesting $20,000 to provide assistance to member states on request for the short- and long-term planning of overall national documentation, library, and archive infrastructure. Finally, a sum of $5,000 has been requested to provide the services of short-term consultants to assist member states in the establishment of national exchange centers.

In order to promote the establishment of integrated documentation, library, and archive services in member states, a variety of projects is proposed. Assistance would be given for establishing of projects in the mechanization of documentation services in Latin America and Asia ($70,000); a pilot project for the development of public libraries in a Latin American country would be undertaken ($50,300); and a pilot

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[2] United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. Draft Medium-Term Outline Plan for 1973-1978. (General Conference, Seventeenth Session, Paris 1972, 17 C/4) Paris, UNESCO, 1972.

project for archive development in the Ivory Coast would be continued ($47,500).

The Department would offer support for the establishment of facilities for training in modern techniques, including electronic data processing ($120,000), and would undertake to "harmonize" methodologies and curricula in the training of documentalists and librarians ($21,400).

In a participation type program, member states requesting assistance would be provided with the services of experts for the development of national and regional documentation, library, and archives services ($222,800) with assistance from the U.N. Development Program totaling $305,000. Thirty-two projects in 25 countries would be continued. In individual countries, an additional $495,000 would be requested from the U.N. Development Program to support regional activities, including archives training in Dakar, a library specialist for the UNESCO office in the Western Hemisphere, Havana. With support from the United Nations found for population activities, a pilot project on population and documentation and information oriented toward the future application of mechanized procedures would be established and assistance would be given to the member states toward the establishment of national population documentation centers.

The Department of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives is responsible for the implementation of the computerized service, providing control for UNESCO's own documents, and is requesting $496,400 for this purpose during the biennium 1973-74. Similiarly the Department is responsible for the maintenance and operation of UNESCO's library, for which it is requesting $1,064,500 during the biennium. A reduction of one professional and one non-professional member brings the current library staff total to 14 professional and 25 non-professional.

Four draft amendments had been submitted to the resolution authorizing the Department's work plan under consideration by Commission IV. The United States had introduced one, requesting the Director General in drawing up the organization's plans for 1975-76 and subsequent biennia to give careful consideration to a list of proposals for the strengthening of UNESCO's support program in the area of archives. Argentina submitted an amendment requesting the Director General to convene a joint meeting of the heads of documentation and educational information centers and experts in one of the Latin American countries. Brazil submitted two amendments, the first of which invited member states to encourage the growth of public libraries in rural areas, while the second invited the Director General to encourage the development of centers for further training at the post-graduate level in the field of information science in Latin America. Members of the U.S. delegation present during the Commission's review were Scott Adams, who presented the U.S. resolution, Richard Nobbe, U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, and Charles Lahiguera, of the U.S. Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

Twenty-nine countries made statements, as did two non-governmental organizations, the International Federation of Library Associations, and the International Council on Archives. Three general themes emerged during these interventions. The first theme was that of appreciation for the Department's efforts in helping the less developed countries of the Arab world and of the emerging African nations in the development of their infrastructures. The second related to support for the U.S. resolution which would increase the assistance given to the development of archives and the training of archivists in the developing countries. The third related to the program conflict which many delegations sensed between the Department of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives, in the Communications Sector, and the division of Scientific Documentation and Information in the Science Sector. A number of countries expressed their concern over the apparent duplication of program efforts relating to the implementation of the new UNISIST program and their desire that a higher level of program coordination be attained.

In summarizing the debate, the Assistant Director General for Communication, A. Obligado stated that UNESCO was aware of this potential program conflict, and asserted that it would be resolved before the next UNFSCO General Conference.

A procedural debate on whether Commission IV should take action recommending the Medium-Term Outline Plan, or merely take note of it, occupied much of the session. The Commission voted to approve the U.S. draft resolution requesting further support for archives, 43 to 0, with 2 abstentions. The draft program and budget for the Department of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives was then approved by the Commission 51 to 0, and 2 abstentions.

These two segments of UNESCO's draft program and budget proceed from their separate Commissions to discussion by the Conference in plenary session, and upon the approval of the General Conference become the guidelines for the Secretariat during the

1973-74 biennium.

UNESCO's International Book Year was the subject of note throughout the General Conference. The Frankfurt Book Fair had organized an impressive International Exhibition of Books about Books on the occasion of the IBY, publishing a 390-page illustrated catalog. The exhibition had been on display at the Fair from September 28-October 3, and was moved to the lobby of the Salle des Conferences, UNESCO, where it was on display from October 9-October 27.

This was succeeded by an exhibition of American Books, assembled by the U.S. Information Agency with the assistance of the American Publishing Industry, which was opened at a ceremony on October 30 by William B. Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and Chairman of the U.S. Delegation, and René Maheu, Director General of UNESCO.

Finally, at a ceremony held on Friday, October 27, Herman Liebaers, President of the Support Committee of the IBY and Director of the Royal Library, Belgium, presented Mr. Maheu with a *Liber Librorum* and received the congratulations of the Director General for the contributions of the professional organizations to the success of the International Book Year.

Paul Vassallo, Director of the National Serials Data Program (NSDP), attended the second meeting of the UNISIST Working Group on Systems Interconnection, held as part of the 1972 UNESCO General Conference. While in Europe, Mr. Vassallo also visited the Bibliothèque Nationale as NSDP Director and attended a meeting of the International Organization for Standardization. Mr. Vassallo's reports follow:

Participants in the UNISIST meeting held at the UNESCO House in Paris, September 20-22, included representatives of producers, disseminators, and users of information and of national and international organizations with interest in an formation systems. Dr. Adam Wysocki, Director of the Division of Scientific Documentation and Information, UNESCO, welcomed the participants on behalf of UNESCO and outlined recent developments resulting from or of interest to the Working Group. Following the election of David Martin, Institute of Electrical Engineers, London, as Chairman of the meeting, it eas suggested that smaller working subgroups be formed to consider in greater detail specific issues identified in the report of the first meeting of the Working Group held at an earlier date. Three subgroups were identified as: (1) subgroup on conceptual treatment of documents; (2) subgroup on primary journals; and (3) subgroup on bibliographic descriptions.

Members of the third subgroup were Johanna Eggert, German Standards Institute, Berlin; Marie Rosenbaum, Director of the International Center, International Serials Data System; Charles Gottschalk, International Atomic Energy Agency; Wolfgang Lohner, UNESCO; Mr. Martin; and Mr. Vassalo. They turned their attention to the identification of the areas of responsibility over definition, formulation, and acceptance of bibliographic standards. It was suggested that UNISIST undertake a comparative analysis of the various tools or systems already in existence or being developed presently, determine where there is overlapping, and submit these findings for evaluation. These and further suggestions were drafted into a document which will be submitted to UNISIST.

The entire Working Group was reassembled to discuss the proposals formulated by the subgroups. Minor modifications were suggested and the Secretary of the Working Group, Mr. Gottschalk, made the necessary changes and presented the drafts to UNISIST. It was decided before adjournment that UNISIST will initiate a newsletter in 1973 to announce current developments.

While in Paris, Mr. Vassallo visited the Bibliothèque Nationale as representative of the National Serials Data Program. He was welcomed to the library by Etienne Dennery, Administrateur Général, and they discussed the progress and plans for the future of NSDP. Following a tour of the Bibliothèque, Mr. Vassallo met with Jean Prinet, head of the serials section, who discussed the ISSN in relationship to the Bibliothèque Nationale.

A meeting of the International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee 46 (ISO/TC 46) was held at The Hague, September 26-October 6. Under consideration was the final draft–preliminary resolutions were drafted at a meeting held in Vienna in April, 1972 [see LC *Information Bulletin*, June 2]–of the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) as an international standard to be presented to the plenary session of ISO/TC 46. A subgroup of Madame Rosenbaum, G. van Wesemael, IFLA representative, and Mr. Vassallo redrafted the ISSN document, introduced it for Committee discussion, and assumed the editing responsibilities for the final version. Included in the redraft were all U.S. positions, among them the addition of several data elements in the international set of elements, the frequency and language of publications, and the Library of Congress classification. The ISSN draft is to be circulated to the member organizations for mail balloting before its ratification.